

it impossible to determine with any degree of certainty the precise geographic route or endpoints of specific Internet transmissions and infeasible to separate domestic from foreign Internet transmissions;

Whereas inconsistent and inadministrable taxes imposed on Internet activity by subnational and national governments threaten not only to subject consumers, businesses, and other users engaged in interstate and foreign commerce to multiple, confusing, and burdensome taxation, but also to restrict the growth and continued technological maturation of the Internet itself;

Whereas the complexity of the issue of domestic taxation of electronic commerce is compounded when considered at the global level with almost 200 separate national governments;

Whereas the First Annual Report of the United States Government Working Group on Electronic Commerce found that fewer than 10,000,000 people worldwide were using the Internet in 1995, that more than 140,000,000 people worldwide were using the Internet in 1998, and that more than 1,000,000,000 people worldwide will be using the Internet in the first decade of the next century;

Whereas information technology industries have accounted for more than one-third of real growth in the United States' Gross Domestic Product over the past three years;

Whereas information technology industries employ more than 7,000,000 people in the United States, and by 2006 more than half of the United States workforce is expected to be employed in industries that are either major producers or intensive users of information technology products and services;

Whereas electronic commerce among businesses worldwide is expected to grow from \$43,000,000,000 in 1998 to more than \$1,300,000,000,000 by 2003, and electronic retail sales to consumers worldwide are expected to grow from \$8,000,000,000 in 1998 to more than \$108,000,000,000 by 2003;

Whereas the Internet Tax Freedom Act of 1998 enacted a policy against special, multiple, and discriminatory taxation of the Internet and electronic commerce, and stated that United States policy should be to seek bilateral, regional, and multilateral agreements to remove barriers to global electronic commerce;

Whereas the World Trade Organization, at its May 1998 ministerial conference, adopted a declaration that all 132 member countries "will continue their current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions;"

Whereas the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and industry groups issued a joint declaration at an October 1998 ministerial meeting on global electronic commerce opposing special, multiple, and discriminatory taxation of the electronic commerce and the Internet;

Whereas the Committee on Fiscal Affairs of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has stated that neutrality, efficiency, certainty, simplicity, effectiveness, fairness, and flexibility are the broad principles that should govern the taxation of electronic commerce;

Whereas the United States has issued joint statements on electronic commerce with Australia, the European Union, France, Ireland, Japan, and the Republic of Korea opposing special, multiple, and discriminatory taxation of electronic commerce; and

Whereas a July 1999 United Nations Report on Human Development urged world governments to impose "bit taxes" on electronic transmissions, raising concerns that U.S. policy against special, multiple, and discriminatory taxation of the Internet may be undermined: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) urges the President to seek a global consensus supporting—

(A) a permanent international ban on tariffs on electronic commerce; and

(B) an international ban on bit, multiple, and discriminatory taxation of electronic commerce and the Internet;

(2) urges the President to instruct the United States delegation to the November 1999 World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Seattle, Washington to seek to make permanent and binding the moratorium on tariffs on electronic transmissions adopted by the World Trade Organization in May 1998;

(3) urges the President to seek adoption by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and implementation by the group's 29 member countries, of an international ban on bit, multiple, and discriminatory taxation of electronic commerce and the Internet; and

(4) urges the President to oppose any proposal by any country, the United Nations, or any other multilateral organization to establish a "bit tax" on electronic transmissions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. KOLBE, recognized Mr. CRANE and Mr. RANGEL, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. KOLBE, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CRANE demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. KOLBE, pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶120.9 NO INCREASE IN FEDERAL TAXES

Mr. HAYWORTH moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 208):

Whereas Federal taxes are at their highest peacetime level in history, taking 20.6 percent of the gross domestic product;

Whereas the typical American family pays 36 percent of its income in Federal, State, and local taxes—more than it spends on food, housing, and clothing combined;

Whereas in 1999 governments at all levels will collect \$10,298 for every man, woman, and child in the United States;

Whereas since 1989 the Federal per capita tax burden has increased 27 percent;

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office forecasts that the productivity of American workers—and controlled Federal spending—will create a non-Social Security surplus of \$996,000,000,000 over the next 10 years;

Whereas the House of Representatives voted on May 26, 1999, to protect Social Security and Medicare by passing the Social Security lock box by a vote of 416 to 12; and

Whereas Congress must protect Social Security and Medicare by controlling Federal spending, rather than by increasing taxes on any Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that there should be no increase in Federal taxes in order to fund additional Government spending.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. KOLBE, recognized Mr. HAYWORTH and Mr. RANGEL, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. KOLBE, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. TOOMEY demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. KOLBE, pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶120.10 JUNIOR DUCK STAMP

CONSERVATION AND DESIGN PROGRAM

Mr. SAXTON moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2496) to reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. KOLBE, recognized Mr. SAXTON and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BONILLA, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶120.11 RONGELAP RESETTLEMENT

Mr. SAXTON moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2970) to prescribe certain terms for the resettlement of the people of Rongelap Atoll due to conditions created at Rongelap during United States administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BONILLA, recognized Mr. SAXTON and Mr. UNDERWOOD, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BONILLA, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and